

# Emergency Numbers

## Wetland Maintenance:

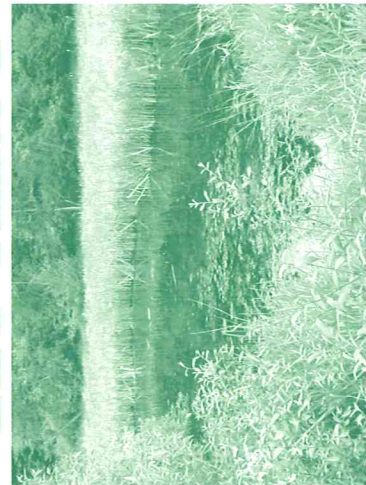
City Of Kent  
Vegetation Management  
(253) 856-5600

## Volunteer Opportunities:

City of Kent  
Environmental Engineering  
(253) 856-5500

## Wildlife Emergencies:

Washington Department  
of Fish and Wildlife  
(425) 775-1311



pw000988



City of Kent Public Works  
220 Fourth Avenue South  
Kent, WA 98032-5895

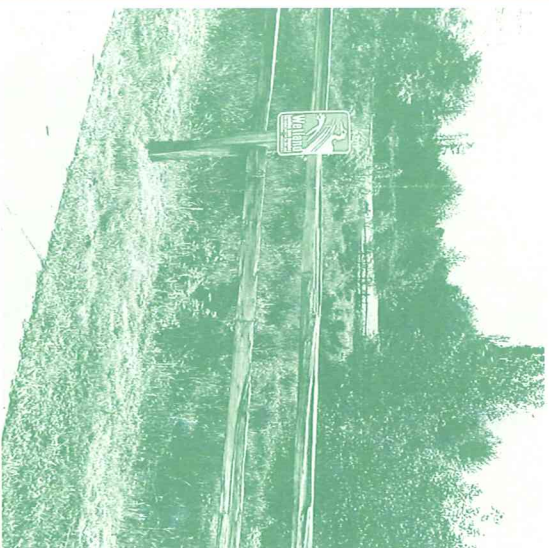
Living with  
**Wetlands**





# What

Is The City of Kent Doing For Wetlands?



The City of Kent preserves and actively maintains many city-owned wetlands. City maintenance duties include keeping the wetland free of litter, maintaining fence lines, removing noxious weeds, planting native trees and shrubs as needed and mowing any lawn areas. The City of Kent uses best management practices in all its maintenance.

# Why

Are Wetlands Important?

**Wetlands have many beneficial functions including:**

## **Flood Control**

Wetlands hold excess water after storms and slowly release it. Wetlands cannot prevent flooding, but they can decrease the severity and frequency of flooding problems.

## **Wildlife Habitat**

All kinds of wildlife are attracted to wetlands. Wetlands are vital to many species including migrating birds and amphibians.

## **Beauty**

A well maintained wetland is very beautiful. The native plants have attractive flowers and foliage and are a nice backdrop to the rest of your yard.

## **Privacy**

If that wetland was not there you would probably have another neighbor in its place. As the trees and shrubs get larger they will create more and more privacy for your house and yard.

Be A Good

# Neighbor

To Your Wetland

## ● **Garbage and Yard Waste**

needs to be disposed of properly. Never dump anything into the wetland area. Even organic yard wastes cause problems in a wetland. The extra material can partially fill a wetland causing it to lose water-holding capacity. The organic wastes will eventually break down, but in the process of decomposing oxygen is taken up. This can cause the wetland to have a foul odor and the wetland loses vital oxygen. New state laws call for fines of \$1,000 - \$5,000 plus jail time for illegal dumping.

## ● **Stay Out of the Wetland.**

Do not allow children or pets into the wetland. Playing in the wetland disturbs wildlife and can damage habitat. Pets can scare and sometimes kill wildlife. Pet wastes can contaminate the water in the wetland.

## ● **Do Not Use Chemicals**

near the wetland. Fertilizers, weedkillers, pesticides, oil, soap and other chemicals should be used carefully. All of these chemicals can end up in a wetland or stream. Rain can pick up chemicals and carry them to the storm drain, which dumps into streams or wetlands.

## ● **Get Involved!**

The City of Kent would be happy to work with any neighbors or other groups interested in improving wetlands. Stewardship activities may include planting native plants, building and installing bird boxes or doing backyard bird surveys. Call (253) 856-5500 for more information.

